

IV. REMARKS

1. Claims 3, 4, 12, 25-27 and 29-31 are amended. Claims 24 and 28 are canceled without prejudice.
2. Applicants have amended claims 27 and 31 to overcome the objections to the claims. As indicated by the Examiner, these claims should be allowable. Since the changes to the claims merely incorporate the limitation of the claim from which each previously depended, the changes do not further limit or narrow the scope of the claim.
3. Claims 25, 26 and 29-31 are amended to reflect the change in claim dependency.
4. Claims 3, 4 and 12 have been amended to incorporate the features the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. It is submitted that these claims and the claims that depend therefrom should now be allowable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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17 March 2003

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